



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
Washington D.C. 20250



November 29, 1999

Honorable John Kasich  
Chairman  
House Budget Committee  
H-111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Kasich:

In response to your September 22, 1999, request, we have enclosed an updated narrative presenting what we consider to be the most serious management challenges facing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as of December 1999. You also requested other information related to these management challenges, and we have prepared and enclosed matrices to provide that information. Matrix 1 contains audit reports we relied on in making our assessment along with any open audit recommendations and USDA's progress in addressing the recommendations. Matrix 2 presents information comparing the current challenges to those reported in previous years and USDA's efforts to address them. Matrix 3 addresses those programs that we believe have had questionable success.

We are also providing copies of this package to the other congressional requestors noted in your letter of September 22, 1999.

If you have questions or need additional information, please call me at (202) 720-8001 or have a member of your staff contact James R. Ebbitt, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, at (202) 720-6945.

Sincerely,

<signed>

ROGER C. VIADERO  
Inspector General

Enclosures



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Enclosure Titles:

Synopsis of Major Issues 1999

Major Audit Recommendations 1999 (matrix 1)

Matrix 2 – Progress Made (matrix 2)

Matrix 3 – Intended Results (Matrix 3)

**TICKLER: IG-99-0676 (AU-99-0399)**

IDENTICAL LETTERS SENT TO:

Honorable Dan Burton

Honorable Fred Thompson

Honorable Pete Domenici

Honorable Dick Armey